



The News

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by Emma Phillips

The first part of the government under Gabriel Attal was unveiled last night, with the transfers of power due to take place this morning. The new appointments see a swing to the right, with the former spokesperson for Nicolas Sarkozy, Catherine Vautrin, taking over as the Minister of Labor, Health and Solidarity. The head of the Renaissance party, Stéphane Séjourné has been named as the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs and Rachida Dati as the Minister of Culture, who was immediately dropped by the Républicains party. The formal appointment of all new ministers will take place at 11am this morning and then it is straight to work with the first of the new lineup's conseil des ministres.

At the head of the government, Gabriel Attal has stressed that he wants to see "action" and "results". He gave his first interview as Prime Minister on TF1 last night. At just 34, Gabriel Attal has said he is fully aware of the "exceptional" level of responsibility he now has to shoulder for his age. During the interview, he also acknowledged that times were currently "difficult" for many French people and reiterated the government's pledge to lower taxes for the squeezed middle classes.

The new government lineup has caused a stir with the opposition parties, with the left claiming that it represents former right-wing president Nicolas Sarkozy round four.

It's bad news for oyster farmers, as fishing, harvesting and trading in shellfish in part of the bay of Mont-Saint-Michel is now banned after cases of "collective food poisoning". Trading in oysters and other shellfish had already been temporarily suspended in several sectors of the Channel coast and the Atlantic, for similar health reasons.

And finally, to tennis and four extra French players can say "G'day mate" to the Australian Open. Hugo Grenier, Terence Atmane, Fiona Ferro and Léolia Jeanjean have all made it through the qualies. Sadly Hugo Gaston will not be joining them in the Melbourne Grand Slam as the player from Toulouse has been knocked out.